



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Apples From the Inmates

Hagerstown Prisons Harvesting First Red Delicious Crop

Media invited to visit the orchard September 21

TOWSON, MARYLAND (September 17, 2004)---Maryland's first crop of inmate-grown red delicious apples will be harvested in Hagerstown on Tuesday, September 21st, providing yet another example of prison labor saving taxpayer money and giving inmates much-needed jobs while they're incarcerated.

The three-acre crop represents half of the apple orchard near the three state prisons housed on Roxbury Road. The other three acres are planted in gala apples, which were harvested earlier this year. The red delicious crop was pruned and tended by the inmates under the supervision of State Use Industries horticulturist Ron Henson. The apples will be eaten by inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown, Roxbury Correctional Institution, and the Maryland Correctional Training Center.

The apple orchard falls under the horticulture program of State Use Industries, the prison industry arm of the Maryland Division of Correction, which annually saves taxpayers millions by producing food, furniture, clothing, and other items for state agencies and non-profits, while also providing employment and vocational training for inmates.

This is the first year the red delicious trees have been mature for harvest. **Members of the media who wish to see the inmates pick the apples are invited to come out at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 21. Please call for specific information.**

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Providing New Paths to Public Safety